

Wrap Up: 2017 2nd Extraordinary Session

State Budget Bill sent to Governor Edwards

On Friday, the Senate passed House Bill 1, the state-operating budget, sending the bill to Governor Edwards for executive review. Because the bill was not amended in either Senate committee or on the floor, the bill did not require a second vote in the House of Representatives, where it narrowly passed by three votes. This came after an amendment by Representative Walt Leger was adopted by the House that spent all available dollars as forecasted by the Revenue Estimating Conference.

The version of HB 1 that became the final budget is largely the same budget that was proposed by the Senate at the end of the Regular Session, which the House refused to concur in. Under the final version of the budget, TOPS is now fully funded, a 2 percent pay raise will be granted to state employees in accordance with a State Civil Service Department plan, and funding for the Departments of Public Safety and Corrections, Health, and Higher Education has been restored. It also includes \$7.2M for the proposed Acadiana Center for Youth in Bunkie, Louisiana. Funding will be reduced, however, for mental health services for those with severe illnesses such as schizoaffective disorder and bipolar disease.

A total of nine state senators voted against passage of HB 1 – one of the largest blocks of nay votes against the budget’s passage in recent history. Senators Hewitt and Donahue stated that, while HB 1 was a ‘good budget,’ the bill did not go far enough in reducing spending in anticipation of the sunset of several taxes that were expanded during the 2016 special sessions. Many of those increases are set to expire next year, which will create issues for the next fiscal year’s budget. Senator Norby Chabert of Houma stated that the passage of the budget will demonstrate that government is “trying to do the right thing.”

HB 1 Items of Interest

Metropolitan Human Services District

Authorized Other Charges Positions (144)

Nondiscretionary Expenditures	\$ 550,000
-------------------------------	------------

Discretionary Expenditures	\$ 25,343,907
----------------------------	---------------

Program Description: Metropolitan Human Services District provides the administration, management, and operation of behavioral health and developmental disability services for the citizens of Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 25,893,907
--------------------	---------------

NONPUBLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

School Lunch Salary Supplement –	\$ 7,530,930
----------------------------------	--------------

**Approximately a \$5M increase from FY 2016-2017.*

LOCAL HOUSING OF STATE ADULT OFFENDERS

Local Housing of Adult Offenders	\$ 147,044,905
----------------------------------	----------------

Nondiscretionary Expenditures	\$ 0
-------------------------------	------

Discretionary Expenditures	\$ 0
----------------------------	------

Program Description: Provides a safe and secure environment for adult offenders who have been committed to state custody and are awaiting transfer to the Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C), Corrections services (CS). Due to space limitations in state correctional institutions, the DPS&C-CS continues its

partnership with the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association and other local governing authorities by utilizing parish and local jails for housing offenders.

Transitional Work Program	
Nondiscretionary Expenditures	\$ 13,058,357
Discretionary Expenditures	\$ 0

20-903 PARISH TRANSPORTATION

Parish Road Program (per R.S. 48:751-756(A)(1) – by population)	
Nondiscretionary Expenditures	\$ 34,000,000
Discretionary Expenditures	\$ 0
Parish Road Program (per R.S. 48:751-756(A)(3) – by mileage)	
Nondiscretionary Expenditures	\$ 4,445,000
Discretionary Expenditures	\$ 0
Mass Transit Program (per R.S. 48:756(B)-(E))	
Nondiscretionary Expenditures	\$ 4,955,000
Discretionary Expenditures	\$ 0
Off-system Roads and Bridges Match Program	
Nondiscretionary Expenditures	\$ 3,000,000
Discretionary Expenditures	\$ 0

Program Description: *Provides funding to all parishes for roads systems maintenance. Funds distributed on population-based formula as well as on mileage-based formula.*

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 46,400,000
--------------------	---------------

(Capital Outlay continued on Page 3)

CAPITAL OUTLAY

The House concurred in the Senate amendments for HB 2, or the Capital Outlay budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. *Projects in Plaquemines Parish are included below.* You can also view the full bill as enrolled and sent to the Governor by clicking [here](#).

The Legislature also passed HB 7 by Representative Abramson. The bill sets limitations and exceptions for projects receiving Capital Outlay appropriations for FY 2017-2018 and prohibits exemptions from present law relative to public bid law and project review without the approval of the State Bond Commission. To view HB 7 as enrolled and sent to the Governor, click [here](#).